

REMARKS

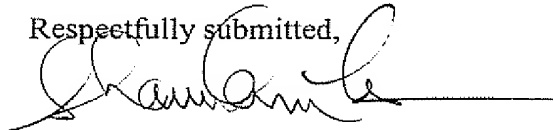
Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the final Office Action dated July 5, 2006 (hereinafter, "Final Action").

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 6-19, 23 and 25-29 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended the pending claims to place the application in condition for allowance. More specifically, the Final Action indicates that Claim 2 is allowed. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the recitations of Claim 2 and have canceled Claim 2 without prejudice. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are patentable. Applicants have further amended Claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 to include the recitations of Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 and claims dependent therefrom are patentable. Lastly, the Final Action indicates that Claim 23 is allowed. Applicants have added new Claim 29, which represents original Claim 23 rewritten in independent format. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 29 does not present new subject matter and is patentable.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application has been placed in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of all the pending claims and passing this application to issue.

Any questions that the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawna Cannon Lemon
Registration No. 53,888

USPTO Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428, Raleigh, NC 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 18, 2006 using the EFS:

Signature: Sarah Abraham
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Date: Sept. 18, 2006